[English]

Private Firms in Oil Exploration and Production

1791. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:
SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any private agency has approached the Government for participation in oil exploration and production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Government have decided to invite international and Indian companies to bid for exploration for oil and gas in the Fourth Round of bidding.

Allocation of Natural Gas to Fertilizer Industry

1792. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations from the fertilizer industry for the allocation of natural gas on priority basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to to take to allocate natural gas to fertilizer industry on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) So far 28.40 MMSCMD of gas has been allocated to the fertilizer sector.

Foreign Tourists

1793. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to assess the reasons for fall in foreign tourists arrival:

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the steps taken by the Government to attract more tourists;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding pilferage of baggages and rude and unhelpful behaviour of officials and guides; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Steps taken by the Government to attract more tourists include continuous augmentation of tourism infrastruture in the country and strengthening of marketing efforts in the overseas markets.

(c) and (d) Such complaints are received from time to time and are forwarded to the concerned authorities for taking appropriate action.

[Translation]

Expansion of Indore Airstrip

1794. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of modern facilities available for landing at Indore airport;

(b) whether the Government have any scheme for the expansion and modernisation of airstrip at Indore: and